

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215995
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 EUR-12
EA-12 /067 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
-----032291 091734Z /53

P 091604Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 215995

USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPT. 9 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL STAFFER ARLEN J. LARGE REPORTED THAT "IN CLOSE, DRAMATIC ROLL CALL, HOUSE VOTED 202 TO 199 TO DELETE 1.4 BILLION DOLLARS IN INITIAL MONEY FOR PRODUCTION LINE ASSEMBLY OF SUPERSONIC BOMBER (B-1) FROM COMING FISCAL YEAR'S DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL. IT WAS B-1'S LAST CHANCE." LARGE SAID "IT WAS SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY FOR MR. CARTER'S STRATEGIC DEFENSE POLICY, AND ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE LEAD ON MAJOR WEAPONS PROGRAMS."

2. PAUL LEWIS OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING FROM PARIS, SAID FRANCE GAVE "SEEMINGLY IRREVOCABLE PLEDGE TO PROCEED WITH CONTROVERSIAL SALE OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN, MOVE MANY COUNTRIES FEAR MIGHT ENABLE THAT
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POOR, POPULOUS AND POLITICALLY UNSTABLE NATION TO ACQUIRE ATOMIC WEAPONS." LEWIS SAID FRENCH DECISION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH SALE "THUS APPEARS TO REPRESENT FURTHER SETBACK FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S STANCE AGAINST SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ONLY FEW DAYS AFTER HIS ADMINISTRATION RELUCTANTLY APPROVED OPENING OF NEW JAPANESE REPROCESSING PLANT AT TOKAI MURA THAT IT HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED." IN DISPATCH

FROM WASHINGTON, TIMES SAID ADMINISTRATION HAD NO STATEMENT ON FRENCH DECISION, BUT PRIVATELY OFFICIALS SAID MOVE DID NOT SURPRISE THEM. THESE OFFICIALS, ACCORDING TO TIMES, SAID FRENCH OFFICIALS HAD BEEN TELLING THEM FOR SOME TIME THAT WHILE THEY WOULD NOT SELL SUCH PLANTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES THEY FELT BOUND BY PREVIOUS PLEDGE TO PAKISTAN.

3. DANIEL SOUTHERLAND OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID ,THROUGH HEAVY LOBBYING AND PROMISES OF TIGHT SECURITY, PRESIDENT CARTER SEEMS TO BE WINNING HIS BATTLE IN CONGRESS TO SELL EXPENSIVE RADAR PLANES TO IRAN. BUT CONGRESSIONAL LIBERALS CONTEND THAT IN SELLING SEVEN SOPHISTICATED AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (AWACS) AIRCRAFT TO IRAN, MR. CARTER WILL UNDERMINE CREDIBILITY OF HIS NEW ARMS SALES POLICY." ON SAME SUBJECT, NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HAS PLEDGED THAT, FROM NOW ON, EACH SUCCEEDING YEAR'S ARMS SALES WILL BE LOWER THAN THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEAR. "SALES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977, ENDING THIS MONTH, WILL TOTAL SOME 9.9 BILLION DOLLARS WORLDWIDE, 5.5 BILLION DOLLARS FOR IRAN ALONE. ADDING AWACS WOULD RAISE THOSE FIGURES TO 11.1 BILLION DOLLARS -- RECORD TOTAL -- AND 6.7 BILLION DOLLARS FOR IRAN. ADMINISTRATION IS EAGER NOT ONLY TO SELL AWACS TO SHAH, BUT TO DO SO BEFORE SEPT. 30, APPARENTLY TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST THAT MUCH EASIER TASK OF PUTTING ON BRAKES IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS. IF CASE FOR SELLING AWACS TO IRAN REMAINS DUBIOUS, CASE FOR RUSHING SALE IS MORE DUBIOUS STILL.,

4. BERNARD T. FELD, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF BULLETIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, WRITING IN MAGAZINE'S SEPTEMBER ISSUE, SAID "UNFORTUNATELY, IN CASE OF B-1 DECISION, ADMINISTRATION HAS FOUND WAY TO SATISFY HAWKS AT SAME TIME IT HANDED VICTORY TO DOVES. TECHNOLOGY HAS PROVIDED CHEAP MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING SPECIAL MISSION OF B-1 AT BARGAIN PRICES, VIA CRUISE MISSILE." FELD SAID "TROUBLE WITH THIS NEW ITEM OF 'SWEET' TECHNOLOGY IS THAT, ONCE IT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND TESTED, BANNING OF ITS DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY BY NATION MEANS ALONE (SHORT) OF COURSE, OF ESPIONAGE, WHICH IS NOT YET GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS ACCEPTABLE NATIONAL VERIFICATION MEASURE)." CARTER'S DECISION TO EXCHANGE CRUISE MISSILES OF 1,500-MILE RANGE FOR B-1 (NEITHER, AS YET DEPLOYED) COULD PRECLUDE NEGOTIABILITY OF THIS ISSUE IN SALT TWO, EVEN AS BARGAINING CHIP. THIS WOULD INDEED BE BAD NEWS, JUST AS IN CASE OF MIRV, WE SEEM TO BE RUSHING INTO DEPLOYMENT OF NEW, DESTABILIZING NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR ILLUSORY

ADVANTAGES OF BEING THERE FIRST," FELD SAID. ,PRESIDENT
IS FAR TOO INTELLIGENT NOT TO REALIZE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS

DECISION; WE HOPE HE IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO RECONSIDER BEFORE
DIE IS IRREVOCABLY CAST." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, PRESS COMMENTS, BOMBER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE215995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770327-0456
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770980/aaaacpjk.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67399849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1328878
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEPT. 9 PRESS ROUNDUP
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, MASS, IR, PK, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67399849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009